

BOOK REVIEWS

John M. Porter, MD, Book Review Section Editor

Current surgical therapy, 6th ed

John Cameron; St Louis; 1998; Mosby; 1300 pages; \$135.00.

Dr Cameron should be proud of his 6th edition of "Current surgical therapy." This text meets the objective of providing up-to-date information on therapeutic options for a broad range of subject material. When my vascular fellow saw that I was reading this text, he requested that I consider exchanging my 6th edition for his 4th edition, which he had judged to be excellent, because he wanted an updated version.

The 256 chapters were appropriately divided into 19 sections (1250 pages) of which the vascular section is the largest with 195 pages. With over 300 contributing authors, one might expect some duplication of subject material and variable quality, but this occurred rarely and probably reflects the efforts of the senior editor. One general criticism was that the references do not appear in the text to document statements but only as a list at the end of each chapter.

The general surgical section had a particularly good section on postgastrectomy syndromes. I was particularly interested to find why I could no longer find any long tubes for treating small bowel obstruction; the Food and Drug Administration prohibits mercury-filled devices. One drawback was the lack of the operative details for meso-rectal excision of colon cancers. The chapter on asymptomatic gall stones was excellent in regards to indications for surgery both as a primary operation and during other operative procedures, such as colon and bariatric surgery. Of personal interest was the lack of emphasis on percutaneous drainage of intra-abdominal abscesses. In discussion, no references were provided for the original studies that showed efficacy.

The section on the pancreas, as one might expect, was excellent. The role of endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography in acute pancreatitis was well defined as was the stenting of the pancreatic duct for pancreatic ascites. After a Whipple resection, anastomosis leakage after pancreaticogastrostomy or pancreaticojejunostomy was found to be similar (11% to 12%) as reported in a recent randomized study at John Hopkins. The section on adjunctive therapy suggested that chemoradiation was of benefit. I found it of interest that additional information on treatment of pancreatic cancer could be obtained through a home page on the internet.

The vascular section was quite complete and provides information on most subjects found in the larger vascular textbooks, although, as expected, with not as much detail as a vascular specialist would prefer. The chapter on the repair of abdominal aortic aneurysms was biased toward the retroperitoneal approach without giving credit to ran-

domized studies that suggest minimal differences in outcome as compared with the transabdominal approach. Claggett's chapter on carotid surgery was excellent with a good discussion of the 6 randomized studies. The chapters on infrainguinal reconstruction did not provide adequate information on valve lysis with the in situ technique. The chapter on foot gangrene was good for its discussion of Pirogoff's amputation as an alternative to a Syme's amputation. However, tissue oxygen levels were never mentioned as an aid for guidance on appropriate amputation level. The chapter on renovascular reconstruction was a little one-sided toward operative repair without referencing more recent articles on renal artery stenting.

The chapter on splenic trauma with angio-embolization and 97% salvage rate by a nonoperative treatment plan was particularly enlightening. I thought the chapter on tension-free hernia repair was particularly clear in regards to operative details. Likewise, I found the discussion of the abdominal compartment syndrome to be well presented.

In summary, I highly recommend this text and believe that the most appropriate audience will be surgical residents who should have it within their easy reach for reference. It is more user-friendly than the larger classic surgical texts and is more current in treatment programs. In the past, I have usually placed a recently reviewed text nearby for easy reference. However, this text will be best used by my son, who is in his third postgraduate year in general surgery, and so "Current surgical therapy" will be his birthday present.

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An atlas of ultrasound color flow imaging

Barry Goldberg, Daniel Merton, Colin Dean; St Louis; 1997; Mosby; 285 pages; \$140.00.

This handsome 290-page atlas of color flow ultrasound scan imaging techniques is written by radiologists and their colleagues, and this is reflected in the content and orientation of the text. The flow of information is logical. The first 3 chapters describe in detail the basic physics and practical issues with different imaging techniques and equipment. Chapters 4 through 7 describe specific imaging issues in the abdomen, obstetrics and gynecology, oncology, and peripheral vascular disease. The last chapter describes the use of contrast agents. As an atlas, it is beautifully illustrated, with key points in each chapter accom-